

MEDICAL MERCY A BOON TO WOMAN

"Twilight Sleep" Ushers 118
Babies Into Life at
One Hospital.

New York, Sept. 14.—The greatest medical mercy women can ever know is an accomplished fact. Any prospective mother in the city of New York can give birth to her baby and suffer absolutely no pain. She has only to go to the Jewish Maternity hospital, 270 East Broadway, and there slip easily, imperceptibly, into the wonderful "twilight sleep." When she awakes, with her baby beside her, there will be no memory of hours of agony to cloud her delight. For her these hours have simply not existed.

This is not a fairy tale, although it must sound like one to many a mother. It is an accurate, uncolored summary of a scientific achievement, and not an isolated achievement, either, but one which has been repeated 118 times at this same Jewish Maternity hospital during the last three months. The 118th "twilight sleep" baby was born there yesterday. During the hour in which the baby's birth took place a reporter was admitted to the room where the mother lay.

At the foot of her bed stood the young man who had brought the miracle of the painless confinement to New York. He came straight from the place where that miracle was worked for the first time, eight years ago—Freiburg, Germany. He is to address the American Congress of Obstetricians next month.

But what is the twilight sleep? Briefly this, a hypodermic injection of the drug scopolamin, given when the first real labor pains are felt, and repeated at intervals until the birth of the child. To obtain the best results from the drug it should be administered in a quiet, dimly lit room. The tremendous importance of this method is due to the fact that the patient is thrown into a state of clouded consciousness, during which she has no subjective pain, and yet there is no interference with the muscular contractions necessary to bring about the birth.

Therefore, with the scopolamin treatment, the suffering of the prospective mother can be prevented from the beginning.

Why have not American doctors given American mothers the benefits of the "twilight sleep"? One answer probably more satisfactory to a doctor than to a pain-wringing mother, is that the treatment, simple as it looks, requires special training and sensitive discernment on the part of the physician, as well as an extra allowance of his time. He must not leave the patient's side from the first injection of scopolamin until the baby is born. And he must know exactly how to regulate the dosage.

"Some women need an injection every half hour," explained the hospital physician. "Some can go an hour, or even two hours, without a repetition of the dose. The one sure test is the test of memory."

"In the 'twilight sleep' a woman is in a state of semi-consciousness. If spoken to, she will answer. The doctor shows her a book, a glass of water, any small object. Ten minutes later he asks her quietly what she saw. If she can't remember, or replies at random, she is still under the influence of the preceding injection of scopolamin. If she remembers, she needs another dose."

"In the 118 cases here at the hospital," the doctor said, "we have had not one failure, in the sense of the treatments having injured mother and child in any way. There are no 100 per cent successes in medicine. But the 'twilight sleep' comes as near as possible to perfectly successful treatment."

"Out of our 118 cases we have had to operate on but three. If scopolamin had not been used the number of operations would have been greatly increased."

DOG'S BARK SAVES MANY

Oneida, N. Y.—The occupants of the Brindenbecker hotel at Vienna, northeast of this city, owe their lives to the hotel dog, for at 3 o'clock in the morning they were aroused by the barking of the animal and discovered that the ballroom of the hotel was a mass of flames.

An alarm was given, but their was little chance of saving the building, so all turned their attention to saving the furniture. Practically everything on the first floor was saved.

It is thought that the fire started in a wood pile at the east end of a shed under the ballroom.

Meaning of the Green Bough.

The custom of placing a green bough on the roof of a newly built house is not confined to Germany, but was adopted by the French Canadians, who brought it with them from Brittany. The custom originated from the superstition prevalent centuries ago that every tree is inhabited by a spirit; consequently it was believed that every time a tree was felled another spirit was dispossessed, and this was supposed to cause some bitterness on his part against society. Rather than risk having these homeless and disgruntled spirits vent their ill feeling upon the houses under construction or upon the builders, a branch was planted on the highest part of the house for their occupancy. They were then supposed to be mollified, and if they remained so until the roof was put on any evil design contemplated would prove harmless for the spell would be broken.

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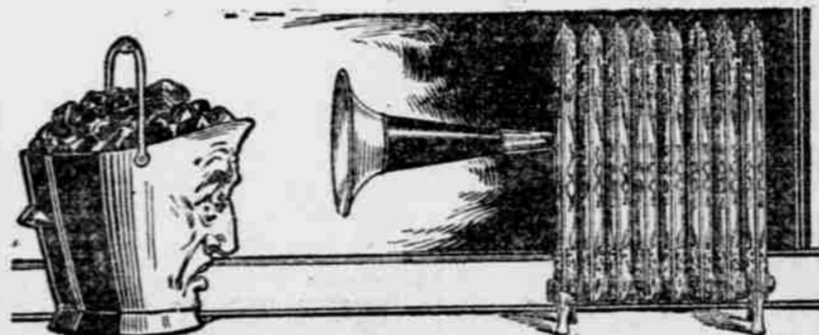
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The past week was unusually quiet in the buildingline. With the advent of fall and winter permits will naturally decrease in number. The year thus far has been a good one and before Jan. 1, 1915 will undoubtedly show a handsome total.

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